



Practitioner's Docket No.: 791\_181

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Akira MATSUMOTO and Masashi FUKUYAMA

Ser. No.: 10/036,325

Art Unit: 1772

Filed: December 26, 2001

Examiner: Not Assigned

Confirmation No.: 3228

For: RIBBONED POLARIZATION-MAINTAINING FIBER AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREFOR, AND POLARIZATION-MAINTAINING OPTICAL FIBER ARRAY USING THE SAME

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on April 26, 2002 under "EXPRESS MAIL" mailing label number EL 795238239 US.

Elizabeth A. VanAntwerp

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of each of the references listed on Form PTO-1449 are attached.

Also enclosed is a copy of a European Search Report bearing a mailing date of April 4, 2002 from a corresponding European patent application, and the U.S. PTO is directed thereto for a concise statement of possible relevance of the references cited therein.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that these references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kevin C. Brown*

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April 26, 2002

Date

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Form PTO-1449				Complete if Known	
US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE					
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	10/036,325
				Filing Date	December 26, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Akira MATSUMOTO
				Art Unit	1772
				Examiner Name	Not Assigned C. Simone
				Confirmation No.	3228
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket No.	791_181

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date
CAS	AB	5,862,281	1/19/1999	Shahid	385	78	

### U.S. COPENDING APPLICATIONS

Exam. Initial		Application Number	Our Docket No.	Filing Date	Inventor Name	Class	Sub Class

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation	Abstract
CAS	AD	4-110806	4/13/1992	Japan	✓	✓		Abstract only
CAS	AE	6-230246	8/19/1994	Japan	✓	✓		Abstract only
CAS	AF	2 403 572	4/13/1979	France	✓	✓		
CAS	AG	198 43 164	4/20/2000	Germany	✓	✓		

### OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages etc.)


Examiner:	Catherine A. Simone	Date Considered:	1/21/03
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.